EDUCATION (IRELAND).

The ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, to His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, for the Year ending the 25th day of March 1853.

(*Pursuant to Act of Parliament*, 53 *Geo.* 3, *c.* 107.)

TO HIS EXCELLENCY EDWARD GRANVILLE EARL OF ST. GERMANS,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
AND GENERAL-GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, "the Commissioners of Education in Ireland," incorporated by an Act of Parliament passed in the 53d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, in submitting to your Excellency, in obedience to the Provisions of the said Act, a General Report of the Proceedings of the Board since the date of their last Annual Report, beg to state—

That during the past year but few circumstances calling for special remark have interfered with the usual and regular duties of the Commissioners.

The difficulties which we have for some years experienced, and to which we have referred in former Reports, in the collection of the Rents, and in the general management of the Estates which form the Endowments of the different Royal Schools, have, we are enabled to say, somewhat diminished, although still requiring constant attention from the several resident Agents in connexion with them, as well as from the Commissioners.

The Returns from the Royal Schools, periodically furnished to us by their respective Masters, show that the Schools generally are beginning to recover from that depression under which they have been suffering for the last few years, and which was by the masters attributed in a great measure to the distressed state of the country.

At the Schools of Royal foundation we have, as far as the funds at our disposal would enable us, expended in improvements, additions, and repairs to the buildings, such sums as have been from time to time reported to us to be necessary; but we regret to be obliged to state that we are still unable to repay to His Grace the Lord Primate any further sum in liquidation of the munificent expenditure made by His Grace on the School-houses of Armagh and Dungannon.

The Royal Schools of Banagher and of Raphoe, which for several years were almost wholly unattended by Scholars, show, under the superintendence of the present Masters, a decided increase of numbers.

And we have to state to your Excellency, that in the return made by Fellows of the University, appointed to examine and to report to us on the merits of the respective Candidates for Exhibitions founded by us in connexion with the Royal Schools, the Examiners express themselves as being completely satisfied with the proficiency exhibited by the different Candidates, in the extended course in which they were, during a period of three days, rigidly examined.

And,

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And, acting on that report, we have selected to fill the vacant Royal Exhibitions in the University, the following Students, viz.:

J. W. Quintin	50 *l.*	per annum.
W. E. Foy	50 *l.*	„
S. Anderson	35 *l.*	„
W. C. Eades	30 *l.*	„
T. W. Carson	30 *l.*	„
E. Nixon	50 *l.*	

We have further to report to your Excellency, that the Schools which we have founded for the benefit and at the solicitation of our tenantry in the Queen's County, and in the counties of Armagh and Donegal, are in successful operation, being numerously attended by children of both sexes.

The different Schools of private foundation do not present any features which call for a special notice to your Excellency.

Where there are funds under our control, we have, as in the case of the Royal Schools, endeavoured to keep the houses in a good and substantial state of repair, and have taken such steps in reference to their respective tenantries as seemed to us to be necessary.

On the Clonmel School Estate (one of private foundation) we have, after much loss of time, been enabled to set on lease certain Farms, which for some time past had been nearly unproductive to this endowment; but we regret to be obliged to state that we are still wholly unable to make any further payment of the instalments remaining due to the Government on account of money heretofore advanced for the purpose of building the School-house of Clonmel.

And we beg to state to your Excellency, that, in obedience to an Order of The House of Commons, we have made a Return of the names of the Schools under our management, and where situated, with the number of boys in each on the 1st day of May 1852, and the number of boys taught in each School gratis in each year, for the last four years, ending the 31st day of December 1852.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) MAZIERE BRADY, *C.* (L.S.)
J. H. MEATH. (L.S.)
JAMES CORK. (L.S.)
F. BLACKBURNE. (L.S.)
J. G. PORTER. (L.S.)
RICHARD MACDONNELL. (L.S.)
ACHESON LYLE. (L.S.)

13 April 1853.

Wm Cotter Kyle, LL.D.,
Secretary.

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(*Pursuant to Act of Parliament*, 55 *Geo.* 3, *c.* 107.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 12 *May* 1853

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Under 1 *oz.*

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